



Office of Community Advocacy

Elder Affairs Advisory Board

Monthly Meeting

June 27th, 2024

10:00 a.m.

Westchester Regional Library

9445 Coral Way

Miami, FL 33165

Members Present: Magali Abad, Betty Hermida, Rosa Kasse, Nercy Radcliffe, Mario Tapia

Members Absent: Susan Holtzman, Barby Morales, Johnnie Mae Kerr, Dionne Polite, Becky Herrup

I. Welcome

The meeting began at 10:19 a.m.

Since there are a couple of new members, Rosa asked the board to go around the room and introduce themselves.

II. Approval of Agenda

Magali motioned to approve the agenda. Betty seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the agenda was approved.

III. Approval of Minutes

Before voting took place, Mario had some comments. He wants more information from each meeting detailed in the minutes. Most importantly, at the last meeting he requested an ethnic breakdown for meals on wheels and asked how much money is needed to eliminate the waiting list for meals on wheels, and these questions were not included on the minutes for the meeting. Katherine asked for clarification on how Mario would like information included in the minutes. He'd like for Katherine to keep the minutes as a summary, just with more detail.

Nercy motioned to approve the minutes, with more detail added. Magali seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the minutes were approved.

IV. Reasonable Opportunity

Our visitor from the Miami-Dade Police Department spoke to the board and answered questions they had. Betty asked for numbers on crimes against the elderly, specifically what changes have happened between this year and last year. He did not have the numbers but promised to get back to us. He told us about their vulnerable victims unit and some trends they are seeing. Specifically, they see a lot of elder exploitation, sometimes from family, sometimes health care providers.

V. Current Business

During the discussion about the minutes, Rosa expressed interest in having a report about meals and wheels to know about waitlists and over 65 that are on the waiting list. Is there a way to request those numbers? How many people are on the waiting list? Where are the people on the waiting list located? How much money is needed to eliminate the waiting list?

Mario wants us to have a better understanding of the Older Americans Act. He thinks there should be a priority to develop more senior centers, if necessary; explaining the Older Americans Act to those who need a better understanding, specifically that it is for people 60+; and that the Alliance for Aging is only prioritizing those 85+.

Brenda mentioned one issue for our board is that there's not a lot of dialogue between us and other organizations. Rosa thinks part of the problem is that no one reaches out to the Elder Affairs Advisory Board. People need to know what is available. There's no interaction between organizations and each other, and organizations with the board. Rosa suggests doing a luncheon to educate the community about resources and that the board helps coordinate speakers who can teach about crime prevention. It's important for groups to be able to reach out to our board for help.

Betty visited Mayor Diaz's office in Sweetwater and was told about the Mayor's task force. She thinks it would be beneficial for one of us to be on it. Katherine is a member of the Mayor's Initiative, but it is open to anyone who wants to join and she will send everyone the information to join if they are interested. Betty also thinks it would be helpful for one of us to serve on the Alliance for Aging. Nercy would like to serve on the board for the Alliance for Aging, but there is a conflict of interest since her group receives referrals from the Alliance. Magali recommended Betty to serve on the Alliance for Aging's board. Mario seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and Betty was appointed to serve on the Alliance for Aging's board.

Betty asked for a motion to have a spot on the agenda for work group updates each month. Mario seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote and the agenda will now have a spot for work group updates each month.

Magali wants to know how we can communicate all the things happening to the elderly so that they are aware of everything. In her opinion, we can discuss as much as we want but if we don't tell the elderly, what's the point? Brenda told the board about an event that she attended where the elderly came out and had breakfast while learning, similar to what Rosa has mentioned.

Rosa motioned to have meetings at community centers. Betty mentioned that dissemination of information is a difficult thing, and that going to centers at lunch time with announcements is helpful. The board agreed that before lunch, around 10:00 a.m., would be best for maximizing engagement. Mario likes the idea of hearing from the community. During his radio program, he gets calls where people ask questions about resources. If we have community meetings, the seniors can come and tell us not only their stories, but their neighbor's, as well. Rosa motioned to have our September meeting at a community center. Nercy seconded the motion. The voice vote passed so the September meeting will be at a community center. Every other meeting will be at community centers.

Mario brought up an issue he's had with the Alliance. He was told that the Alliance would have a hotline that would "solve all the problems." He met with the director. They're supposed to have enough workers to handle call volume, how much money do they need to alleviate the issue? The Alliance also has their survey mostly online. The best way to reach out to older adults is television, radio, and newspapers.

Nattaliah from Urban Health Partnerships came to visit us and spoke about what UHP is doing in the community. One of their main focuses this year is communications. It is important for organizations to coordinate and work together so that there's no duplication of efforts. Currently, UHP is working with hospitals, networks, organizations, and municipalities covering around 42% of the County. UHP is asking people to visit their website to tell them about events happening. They also have community liaisons who go into the community to discuss the issues. Some ways that outreach has been successful for them is using libraries, specifically working on age friendly libraries; digital copies of information; robo calls that share information with older adults; age friendly parks; and the YMCA, which offers a lot of senior services. The UHP has to have a comprehensive aging plan that is submitted to AARP. They talk to the community in order to create the action plan. It assesses whether or not communities are livable. They will form work groups to disseminate the information. One way they are getting responses is through survey socials, where they sit down with people, provide lunch, and help fill out the response forms.

The Board spoke about the survey they asked for from the Commissioners. One area of confusion was the use of age 50, instead of 60 or 65. The Board used age 50 because that is the AARP standard, which comes directly from the World Health Organization. Mario wanted an update on the needs assessment, which is the survey. It is being done.

The Board ran out of time and Betty motioned to move the rest of the agenda to July. Nercy seconded the motion. The voice vote passed and the items were moved to July.

VI. Announcements

VII. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 p.m.